



March 1, 2011

Re: Spanish Speaking Center/Mary L. Sanders, Executive Director

Dear Legislative Officials:

My name is Pastor Brigitte Brown, and I am the Assistant Pastor at Right Now Ministries, Inc, which is located in the North-Oak area of New Britain, CT. It's with a heavy heart that I write these few words. It is extremely unfortunate that the limited funding that the Spanish Speaking Center currently uses, in order to help in providing services, is slated to be cut out of their budget. If these monies are eliminated, they will have to close down; and so will the many services that they provide for all low-income families in New Britain. These services include Case-management, education and training, food pantry, job development, youth programming, health & wellness initiatives and others.

The Spanish Speaking Center is an extremely vital part of New Britain, and ALL of their services are needed. They provide culturally competent and effective services for the Latino/Latina populations, and all others in need. They have been an established organization since 1964. In addition to basic human services they continue to be committed to economic development, community organizing, cultural enrichment, and bilingual education in New Britain, CT and the surrounding cities. Both the Spanish Speaking Center and our church are committed, to assisting the poorest of the low-income families, who are predominantly of Latino/Latina decent.

I understand that this State is going through financial difficulties, but please let's remember those residents that are poor, and who may not have the means to advocate for themselves. That is why we stand here at the Capital, UNITED, for those who do not have a voice for themselves. Please reconsider eliminating these monies from this program.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. I can be reached directly at 860-770-2495.

Sincerely,

*Brigitte Brown*

Pastor Brigitte Brown

Pastors Rha-Sheen and Brigitte Brown  
64 Spring Street  
New Britain, CT 06051